

Datsopoulos, MacDonald & Lind, P.C.

Attorneys at Law

Milton Datsopoulos
Dennis E. Lind
William K. VanCanagan
Rebecca L. Summerville
David B. Cotner
Paul T. Ryan
William V. Ballew
Darla J. Keck

Central Square Building
201 West Main Street, Suite 201
Missoula, Montana 59802
Phone: (406) 728-0810
Fax (406) 543-0134
email @dmllaw.com

Ronald B. MacDonald (1946-2002)

Terance J. Perry
Edward A. Murphy
Molly K. Howard
Phil McCreedy
Trent N. Baker
James K. Ycates
Erika R. Peterman
Del M. Post
Jesse A. Lajovich

November 20, 2006

VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 219-3923

Federal Elections Commission
Office of General Counsel
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

MUR #: 5866

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the enclosed *Statement of Designation of Counsel*, I am submitting this correspondence to the Federal Election Commission, which shall serve as a formal response to the complaint filed by James A. Farrell, Executive Director of the Montana Democratic Party. Please be advised that I am providing legal counsel to Inland Northwest Space Alliance ("INSA") and therefore, will not address the allegations set forth in the complaint that are related to Senator Conrad Burns.

Mr. Farrell addressed two potential violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 ("the Act"), one of which relates to INSA and the other to Senator Burns. I address each chronologically.

Allegation # 1: "Employees of INSA were being pressured by their employers to contribute to Burns with the specter of their jobs hanging over their heads. This violates the FEC prohibition of making corporate contributions and making contributions in the name of another."

This allegation cites two possible violations: (1) prohibition of making corporation contributions and (2) prohibition of making contributions in the name of another. The basis of this allegation stems from a newspaper article printed in the Missoulian, based in Missoula, Montana, on October 24, 2006, wherein an anonymous source was quoted as saying that INSA employees were under "great pressure" to give money to Senator Burns' re-election campaign. To my knowledge, no formal investigation has been conducted to verify the accuracy of such a statement.

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

NOV 20 P 11:00

27044170452

Datsopoulos, MacDonald & Lind, P.C.

Federal Election Commission

November 17, 2006

Page 2

First, please be advised that INSA did not, in any way, make a corporate contribution to Senator Burns' re-election campaign. Mr. Farrell's allegation to the contrary is baseless and without merit. Indeed, Mr. Farrell could not, and did not, cite in his complaint any corporate contribution made by INSA to Senator Burns' re-election campaign. Therefore, there is no reason to believe that the complaint sets forth a possible violation of the Act and no action should be taken against INSA with regard to the allegation that INSA violated the prohibition against corporate contributions.

Secondly, Mr. Farrell argues that the prohibition against making contributions in the name of another was also violated. Please be advised that no such contributions were made. Contributions from INSA employees to Senator Burns' re-election campaign were done personally, voluntarily, and willingly, and without threat or coercion from INSA. Such contributions were made in accordance with federal law and were not made by INSA under the guise of its employees. Therefore, no reason exists to believe that the Act has been violated and no action should be taken against INSA relative to the allegation that INSA violated the prohibition against making contributions in the name of another.

Allegation # 2: "Sen. Conrad Burns was apparently directing taxpayer funds to INSA with the explicit or tacit understanding that employees of the firm would be campaign contributors. This violates the prohibition against providing money to others to effect political contributions."

This allegation is directed to Senator Burns and not INSA. On behalf of INSA, however, please be advised that there was absolutely no understanding or agreement between INSA and Senator Burns that taxpayer funds directed to INSA would result in political contributions to Senator Burns' re-election campaign from INSA or its employees.

Ultimately, based on the foregoing, Mr. Farrell's allegations surrounding INSA violating federal election laws are not supported by any documentation or evidence. This case does not warrant the resources of the Commission and accordingly should be dismissed.

Very truly yours,

DATSOPOULOS, MacDONALD & LIND


Milton Datsopoulos

MD/jal

Encl. a/s

27044170453



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
 999 E Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20463

STATEMENT OF DESIGNATION OF COUNSEL
Please use *one* form for each Respondent/Client
FAX (202) 219-3923

MUR # 5866

NAME OF COUNSEL: Milton Datsopoulos, Esq.

FIRM: Datsopoulos, MacDonald & Lind, P.C.

ADDRESS: 201 W. Main St., Ste. 201

Missoula, MT 59802

TELEPHONE- OFFICE (406) 728-0810

FAX (406) 543-0134

The above-named individual and/or firm is hereby designated as my counsel and is authorized to receive any notifications and other communications from the Commission and to act on my behalf before the Commission.

11/20/06 George Bailey CEO
 Date Respondent/Client Signature Title

RESPONDENT/CLIENT Inland Northwest Space Alliance
 (Please Print)

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 7428

Missoula, MT 59807

TELEPHONE- HOME () _____

BUSINESS (406) 541-3130

Information is being sought as part of an investigation being conducted by the Federal Election Commission and the confidentiality provisions of 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(12)(A) apply. This section prohibits making public any investigation conducted by the Federal Election Commission without the express written consent of the person under investigation